



Climate Smart Kingston Commission  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 481-7339

**Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission July 27, 2016**  
**Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM**

**Commission Members (Voting):** Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong (excused), Michael D'Arcy (excused), Emilie, Hauser, Nick Hvozda, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper (excused), Karen Sullivan (excused), John Wackman

**Commission Members (Non-Voting):**

Nolan Bastianelli (excused), Casey Schwarz, Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment) represented by Alanna Henneberry

**Ex-Officio Members:** Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Kingston Dept of Public Works (not present)

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** After the Chairperson called the meeting to order, there was no public comment.
- II. Review and Approval June 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wackman, seconded by Commissioner Hvozda, the commissioners present unanimously agreed to table the minutes to the June meeting.
- III. Old Business**
  - 1. Energy and Renewables**
    - i. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory/Energy Tracking:** Commissioner Hvozda reported on private and governmental GHG emission data he has been reviewing comparing 2010 data to 2015. Several of the utility tracking software programs discussed at previous meeting were again mentioned (Facility Dude from Dude Solutions, Portfolio Manager from EPA and Energy Manager from Central Hudson) together with a WegoWise.com, an online utility benchmarking tool.
    - ii. Wendell Flex Tech Study Review:** Commissioner Alleyne reported on his review of the Wendell Flex Tech study indicating that the audit information and recommendations need to be updated, as the data is from 2007. The study covered 24 municipal buildings and indicated that the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) uses the most energy and that the City needs to determine what recommendations have been done. The study includes recommendations for each building so the next step is to extrapolate recommendations and determine from various City department heads what has been done. Commissioner Alleyne offered to reach out to department heads as an action item.
    - iii. Solar Permitting:** Commissioner McEvoy sent the standard form of solar permit from NYSERDA to those commissioners interested with information as to how to customize the form if the commission so desires.
    - iv. Solarize Campaign:** Commissioner Wackman began the discussion. A NYS Solar Farm event in Modena on 7-15; was mentioned. It was reported that there are now 118 solar contracts in Ulster & Dutchess Counties including a commercial contract at a farm in Dutchess and that it is hoped that 150 contracts will be signed. The commissioners discussed Community Shared Solar (aka Community Distributed Generation or CDG) with it being reported that NYSERDA has indicated that the model is not ready yet with several logistical issues mentioned so CDG roll out is presently delayed until 2017. The structure would be that the consumer purchases a share in the program. A Request for Proposals may be issued for the next campaign to identify local projects with typical responders being a solar array farm. Other announcements concerning solar energy included mention of a Solarize Wappingers event in Dutchess County being scheduled for

September and then a Newburgh City and Town event scheduled for October. It was reported that Gardiner is proposing a nine-month moratorium on the issuance of permits for the installation of ground-mounted solar-energy-generating facilities in order to draft zoning language for site plan reviews.

- v. **LED Streetlight Consortium:** No report this month.
- vi. **CCA Working Group:** Commissioner Broad reported on Community Choice Aggregation giving a brief overview concerning Paul Fenn who co-authored the nation's landmark Community Choice Aggregation legislation in Massachusetts. Regarding CCA, communities make a choice as to supplier that could be a utility or ESCO (energy service company) or preferably a local renewable source. Citizens for Local Power is looking at CCA models utilizing renewable energy sources. A Public Service Commission order limits implementation presently. Issues with the PSC and the position of the utilities concerning CCA were discussed. Chairperson Julie Noble is to represent Kingston on the Ulster County CCA working group. Further discussion concerned the possible structure for a CCA entity as to whether it would be best public or private and its ability to raise capital, issue bonds and receive loans from governmental organizations.
- vii. **Municipal EV Purchases:** Chairperson Julie Noble announced the first purchases of electric vehicles by the City of Kingston.
- viii. **National Drive Electric Week:** Commissioner Broad reported on the County courthouse parking lot being the likely site of the Sustainable Saturday event pending to be held on Saturday September 17. Alternative sites were also considered.

## **2. Land Use and Transportation**

**i. Zoning Code Recommendations:** Zoning discussion was tabled.

**ii. Adaptation and Resilience:** Commissioner Hauser reported on the Fall Climate Adaptive Design (CAD) studio

**iii. CFA Grant Submissions and Letters of Support:** Chairperson Julie Noble reviewed without objection, the letters of Support that the commissioners had approved electronically.

## **IV. New Business**

- 1. **Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign working group:** The Chairperson reported that Commissioner D'Arcy has suggested that a working group be formed similar to the energy advocates group formed previously. This working group is proposed to be active until December 2016. Upon motion by Commissioner Wackman which was seconded by Commissioner Broad, the voting commissioners present resolved unanimously to form a Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign working group as Resolution # 3 of 2016.
- 2. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory/Energy Tracking Working Group;** Upon motion made by Commissioner Hvozda and seconded by Commissioner McEvoy, the commissioners present voted unanimously as Resolution # 4 of 2016 to establish a GHG Emissions Inventory & Energy Tracking Work Group to be composed of by Commissioner Hvozda, Commissioner Pepper, Chairperson Julie Noble and non-voting Commissioner Casey Schwarz.
- 3. **Rondout Creek stream gauge:** A discussion concerning the USGS stream gauge near the Rip Van Winkle docking area noted that it was deactivated effective April 2015 and resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.
- 4. **Next Meeting Wed Aug 24, 4:30-6:00pm, City Hall (TBD):** The voting commissioners agreed by unanimous acclamation that the next meeting date be changed to the last week of August.

## **V. Announcements/Communications/Events:**

- 1. **Repair Café:** Commissioner Wackman reported that the next event is Saturday July 30 at the Clinton Ave Methodist Church.
- 2. **Communication workshop:** Commissioner Hauser announced that on 8-4 from 8:30 AM-3PM a workshop would be held at NYS Parks Taconic headquarters in Staatsburg.
- 3. **Changing Energy Landscape Conference:** This event is scheduled to be held on May 3 2017.
- 4. **9-11 First Responders:** Details for this event are not finalized.

- VI. **Adjournment:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wackman, seconded by Commissioner Alleyne, the voting commissioners present unanimously adjourned the meeting at 6:07pm.

*Vision: The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.*